



2014 TEA Teaching and Learning Symposium

Practical Strategies for Building Student Character Through Content and Technology

Class Dojo: If improving your classroom management skills is high on your list of priorities, then Class Dojo is the app for you. This app is extremely popular with elementary and middle school teachers, because it lets them track, record, and analyze the behavior of students in their class. Earn "Dojo points" and check behavior online while earning badges and building "creatures".

Too Noisy: An updated take on the cafeteria "Red Light" that measures noise levels and alerts when classes are too loud.

Environmental Commitment: TN State Parks App: Find park activities, participate in a GeoChallenge, distance indicators, and much more. Our Choice App: Changes the way you look at digital texts. A great resource for understanding the concept of climate change and sustainability.

MakeBeliefComix or PuppetPals: Create comic strips or Puppet Pal plays to address rules, laws, honesty, self-control, etc.

Many of these concepts are based on the six pillars of the "Character Counts" youth ethics initiative:
Trustworthiness; Respect; Responsibility; Fairness;
Caring; Citizenship

School Climate through Parental Involvement: Classroom websites, Edmodo, parent nights, "contracts" that parents sign at the beginning of the year for behavior, homework, curriculum, and more.

Students who are "Upstanders": From the National School Climate Center, this is a concept that is being implemented in lots of schools.

School Democratic Environment: My Congress app gives you direct access to news, videos, and Twitter feeds for your congress rep. Have a class mock election to simulate the concepts.

Community Commitment: Habitat Tool drive; Soles for Souls; Volunteer activities; Tutoring;

Group work and sharing: Think/Pair/Share; Random Name Selector App; ThreeRing App; TeacherKit App



Trustworthiness: Be honest • Don't deceive, cheat, or steal • Be reliable – do what you say you'll do • Have the courage to do the right thing • Build a good reputation • Be loyal – stand by your family, friends, and country

Respect: Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule • Be tolerant and accepting of differences • Use good manners, not bad language • Be considerate of the feelings of others • Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone • Deal peacefully with anger, insults, and disagreements

Responsibility: Do what you are supposed to do • Plan ahead • Persevere: keep on trying! • Always do your best • Use self-control • Be self-disciplined • Think before you act – consider the consequences • Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes • Set a good example for others

Fairness: Play by the rules • Take turns and share • Be open-minded; listen to others • Don't take advantage of others • Don't blame others carelessly • Treat all people fairly

Caring: Be kind • Be compassionate and show you care • Express gratitude • Forgive others • Help people in need

Citizenship: Do your share to make your school and community better • Cooperate • Get involved in community affairs • Stay informed; vote • Be a good neighbor • Obey laws and rules • Respect authority • Protect the environment • Volunteer

- See more at: <http://charactercounts.org/sixpillars.html>